

BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-6078
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

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THIS WEEK NO. 32

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS

NARR:

THERE WAS NEW HOPE FOR REVIVING PROGRESS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT THIS WEEK. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE RETURNED FROM CAIRO AND JERUSALEM WITH UNEXPECTED AND WELCOME NEWS: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT AND ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MANACHEM BEGIN HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO MEET WITH HIM AT CAMP DAVID OUTSIDE WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER FIFTH. WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO SEEK "A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT THERE ARE NO TIME LIMITS ON THE DURATION OF THE MEETING.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- POWELL

"ALL THREE LEADERS AGREE THAT THERE IS NO TASK MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO SEARCH FOR PEACE. SECRETARY VANCE HAS INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE WELCOMED THIS MEETING AND THE PRESIDENT IS GRATIFIED BY THEIR RESPONSE."

NARR:

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID PRESIDENT CARTER DECIDED TO TAKE THIS NEW INITIATIVE BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN AN EVIDENT SLOWDOWN IN THE MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PUNCTUATED BY INTENSIFIED POLEMICS ON BOTH SIDES. THE AMERICANS SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

WILL ITSELF PRODUCE A SETTLEMENT. BUT THEY ADDED IT CAN CERTAINLY HELP CONSIDERABLY IN NARROWING EXISTING DIFFERENCES.

IN TEL AVIV PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO RENEWING HIS PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- BEGIN

"I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I AM VERY GLAD THAT PRESIDENT SADAT ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I WISH ALSO TO SAY THAT WE OWE CONGRATULATIONS TO SECRETARY VANCE BECAUSE HE SUCCEEDED IN A VERY DELICATE DIPLOMATIC MISSION. LET US HOPE THAT THIS MEETING, WHICH IS A VERY IMPORTANT ONE, WILL BRING FORTH RESULTS FOR WHICH OUR NATIONS, AS I BELIEVE, DO PRAY, AND OTHER NATIONS TOO -- NAMELY, RESULTS WHICH WILL MAKE POSSIBLE TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST."

NARR:

MISTER BEGIN ALSO SAID ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO CHANGE ITS STAND ON THE ISSUE OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ADVANCE OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING. THE ISRAELI LEADER ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT PRESIDENT CARTER TO PUT FORTH AN AMERICAN PLAN TO RESOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS THE PRIME AMERICAN GOAL AS BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

IN CAIRO, MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE WAS GOING TO CAMP DAVID BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSURANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PLAY A ROLE OF FULL PARTNERSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SADAT

"WE HAVE AGREED UPON THAT LAST NIGHT AND WE HAVE SURVEYED THE WHOLE SITUATION, NOT ONLY THE SITUATION HERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT ALL OVER THE AREA."

NARR:

BEFORE LEAVING EGYPT, SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT WHILE THE UNITED STATES WILL ACT AS A FULL PARTNER IN THE CAMP DAVID TALKS , IT WILL BE UP TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO REACH THE AGREEMENTS THAT CAN LEAD TO PEACE. BUT HE ADDED

THAT WHEN WASHINGTON SEES OBSTACLES IMPEDING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE UNITED STATES WILL FEEL FREE TO PUT FORTH ITS OWN SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO BRIDGE THE GAP.

(OPT) HERE IN WASHINGTON, MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE VOICED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE CAMP DAVID MEETINGS. SENATOR FRANK CHURCH SAID NEXT MONTH'S SUMMIT MAY BE THE LAST BEST HOPE FOR PEACE. SENATOR CHURCH EXPLAINED THAT HE HAS NO INFLATED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE MEETING, BUT HE ADDED THAT IT DOES HAVE REAL POSSIBILITIES.

SENATOR JACOB JAVITS, WHO JUST LAST WEEK HAD SAID HE WISHED SECRETARY VANCE HAD CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SAID PRESIDENT CARTER IS DOING THE RIGHT THING. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT MISTER CARTER HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT PROPOSE A U.S. PEACE PLAN BUT WILL INSTEAD ACT AS HOST AND MEDIATOR. (END OPT)

POPE PAUL THE SIXTH, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF SIX-HUNDRED MILLION ROMAN CATHOLICS AROUND THE WORLD, DIED THIS WEEK AT THE AGE OF 80 AT HIS SUMMER RESIDENCE IN CASTEL GANDOLFO OUTSIDE ROME. VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, CARDINAL JEAN VILLOT, ASSUMED THE INTERIM LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SEE AND CONVENED A CONCLAVE OF CARDINALS TO ELECT A SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE OF SAINT PETER. THE CONCLAVE WHICH WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 25TH.

PEOPE PAUL ASSUMED THE PAPACY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL INITIATED BY HIS PREDECESSOR JOHN THE TWENTY-THIRD, AND CARRIED THE COUNCIL TO ITS CONCLUSION TWO YEARS LATER. HE IS THUS CREDITED WITH BRINGING ABOUT THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND POSITIVE CHURCH REFORMS SINCE THE SIXTEENTH

CENTURY REFORMATION. IN EFFECT, VATICAN TWO BROUGHT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FORWARD INTO THE MODERN WORLD. THE MASS WAS SIMPLIFIED AND THE USE OF LATIN WAS DROPPED.

BUT THESE WERE ONLY EXTERNAL SYMBOLS OF A PROFOUND REVOLUTION TAKING PLACE IN THE CHURCH. VATICAN TWO BROUGHT ABOUT MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF LAYMEN IN THE LIFE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND DEEPENED ITS CONCERN FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS AROUND THE WORLD. BUT ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF BIRTH CONTROL, POPE PAUL REFUSED TO LIFT THE CHURCH'S BAN, AND HE WAS UNYIELDING IN HIS INSISTENCE ON PRIESTLY CELIBACY AND HIS OPPOSITION TO ABORTION AS A VIOLATION OF WHAT THE CHURCH CONSIDERS NATURAL LAW.

AFTER THE REFORMING ZEAL OF THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS PONTIFICATE, POPE PAUL'S POLICIES ON SOME ISSUES SHOWED A MORE CONSERVATIVE BENT. HE SPOKE OUT AGAINST WHAT HE VIEWED AS THE ABUSES OF MODERN PERMISSIVE SOCIETY AND URGED GREATER ADHERENCE TO MORAL STANDARDS WHICH HE KNEW WERE NOT ALWAYS RESPECTED UNIVERSALLY:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- POPE PAUL (THROUGH AN INTERPRETER)

"MEN CANNOT BE BROTHERS IF THEY ARE NOT HUMBLE. IT IS PRIDE, NO MATTER HOW INEVITABLE IT MAY SEEM TO BE, WHICH PROVOKES TENSIONS AND STRUGGLES OF PRESTIGE, PREDOMINANCE, OF COLONIALISM, OF SELFISHNESS. IT IS PRIDE WHICH DISRUPTS BROTHERHOOD."

NARR:

DURING HIS FIFTEEN-YEAR PONTIFICATE, PAUL WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD INTERNATIONALIZING THE VATICAN HIERARCHY AND PROMOTING THE SPIRIT OF ECUMENISM AMONG CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. THROUGH HIS MANY UNPRECEDENTED JOURNEYS IN SEARCH OF WORLD PEACE AND CHRISTIAN UNITY, HE BECAME THE FIRST PONTIFF TO VISIT EVERY CONTINENT -- TRULY THE FIRST JET-AGE PONTIFF.

IN THE FAR EAST THIS WEEK, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CHINA AND JAPAN MET FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1974 TO NEGOTIATE A SINO-JAPANESE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. CHINA'S CALL FOR AN ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE -- WHICH IN PEKING'S VOCABULARY MEANS OPPOSITION TO THE SOVIET UNION -- AND JAPAN'S DESIRE TO WATER DOWN THE CLAUSE SO IT WON'T APPEAR POINTED SOLELY AT THE SOVIET UNION, IS THE ISSUE THAT HAS HELD UP THE TALKS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. BUT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT NEGOTIATORS WERE NEARING AGREEMENT ON THE EXACT WORDING OF THE CONTROVERSIAL CLAUSE.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER SUNAO SONADA EXPLAINED THAT JAPAN'S BASIC FOREIGN POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND NOT BE HOSTILE TO ANY NATION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID JAPAN WOULD OPPOSE DOMINATION OF EAST ASIA BY ANY COUNTRY. BUT HE ADDED THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN JAPAN WOULD NECESSARILY SIDE WITH CHINA IN TAKING JOINT ACTION AGAINST SUCH A COUNTRY.

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG-HUA REITERATED CHINA'S BASIC STAND ON THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE. BUT JAPANESE SOURCES SAID MISTER HUANG DID NOT OBJECT TO THE JAPANESE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. AND THIS IS BEING INTERPRETED AS A SOFTENING IN CHINA'S ATTITUDE ON THE CLAUSE. LATER IN THE WEEK, DISPATCHES FROM PEKING SAID JAPAN AND CHINA HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONCLUDE THE BILATERAL PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY SHORTLY.

MEANWHILE, HIGH-LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CHINA ON THE QUESTION OF ETHNIC CHINESE IN VIETNAM ALSO OPENED THIS WEEK IN HANOI. VOA CORRESPONDENT EDWARD CONLEY REPORTED FROM HONG KONG:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CONLEY

"CHINA ACCUSED VIETNAM OF FORCING CHINESE IN VIETNAM TO TAKE UP VIETNAMESE CITIZENSHIP AND OF MALTREATMENT. VIETNAM ACCUSED CHINA OF ENTICING CHINESE TO LEAVE VIETNAM AND USING THE ISSUE AS A COVERUP. HANOI HAS CHARGED THAT THE RECENT CUTTING OFF OF ALL CHINESE ECONOMIC AID TO VIETNAM WAS DONE DELIBERATELY TO SLOW DOWN VIETNAM'S POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT. BOTH SIDES SAID THEY WANTED TO END THE MATTER AMICABLY. BUT LATER REPORTS ISSUED BY THEIR NEWS ORGANS WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC. A HANOI RADIO BROADCAST SAID THE FIRST ROUND OF HIGH LEVEL TALKS INDICATED NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS."

NARR:

(OPT) THE OPENING DAY OF TALKS IN HANOI WAS MARRED BY A VIETNAMESE ALLEGATION THAT WHAT WERE CALLED CHINESE HOODLUMS AND BORDER GUARDS CROSSED THE BORDER INTO VIETNAMESE TERRITORY BEATING AND STABBING MANY PEOPLE. LATER IN THE WEEK, THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN HANOI REJECTED THE VIETNAMESE PROTEST. THE CHINESE SAID THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT COMPLETELY AND SINGLE HANDELY BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID THE AFFAIR WAS A PREMEDITATED ACT BY VIETNAM DESIGNED TO DELIBERATELY AGGRAVATE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ETHNIC CHINESE PROBLEM.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THIS WEEK, SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE MARTI AHTISAARI OF FINLAND HELD TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL IN THE NAMIBIAN CAPITAL OF WINDHOEK ON IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN PLAN FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY.

VOA CORRESPONDENT JOHN ROBERTS SENT THIS REPORT:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- ROBERTS

"MISTER AHTISAARI IS TO SPEND TWO TO THREE WEEKS IN NAMIBIA, COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR A REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. HIE REPORT IN TURN WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS BY SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ON IMPLEMENTING THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL INDEPENDENCE PLAN FOR NAMIBIA. ALTHOUGH THE SWAPO DEMONSTRATIONS IN WINDHOEK HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL SO FAR, SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE CHARGED THAT THE EXTERNALLY BASED GUERRILLAS ARE STEPPING

UP THEIR ATTACKS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TERRITORY. A SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MONDAY SAID GUERRILLA ACTIVITY INTENSIFIED AS MISTER AHTISAARI ARRIVED ON SUNDAY FOR HIS TALKS IN WINDHOEK." (END OPT)

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS --. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT -- WHEN THE VOA TAKES A LOOK AT THE WEEK'S TOP NEWS EVENTS.

WJL/PY